

The DX Bulletin

August 15, 1979

Vol. I No. 1

The **West Coast DX Bulletin** ceased publication on July 18, 1979, after eleven years under editor/publisher WA6AUD. The mailing list was transferred to Don Busick, K5AAD, and a new editor was named. Word of the impending "revival" spread on the air, by HR Report, at hamfests, and by long-distance telephone calls from the new editor to active DXers.

Concurrent to the above series of events, several other individuals and groups expressed in continuing the WCDXB or starting new bulletins from scratch. At this time, no new bulletins have surfaced. At their July meeting, the ARRL directors recognized the loss of the WCDXB and instructed League management to investigate having the League continue the WCDXB in some way.

General Purpose & Outline of DX Bulletin

"On motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Price, unanimously voted that because of the announcement that the West Coast DX Bulletin is about to cease publication and because that bulletin provides a desired service to many DX operators, the General Manager is authorized to determine on what terms ARRL might obtain publication rights to the West Coast DX Bulletin and the services of Hugh Cassidy as editor, and the General Manager is further directed to report his findings promptly to the Executive Committee for their consideration."

With the impending World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC), stupendous sunspot activity, new DXCC countries emerging and many new amateurs interested in DX, 1979 seemed like the least appropriate time to allow the world's best DX bulletin to succumb. DXers felt the urgency of continuing the bulletin with as little lapse as possible, and it is to that end that time and resources have been invested.

All WCDXB subscribers will receive this DX Bulletin, free of charge. Additionally, others have been added to the list for this first issue, as necessary. Now that readers know **who** we are and **where** we are, The DX Bulletin will survive if, and only if, the editor's mailbox is stuffed, as it was for the West Coast DX Bulletin.

Report forms and postpaid envelopes are in the works — your indulgence is asked for the present until a modus operandi is established. Having the benefit of the WCDXB's experience, we shall continue all good things and also try some new angles. Several items may seem different, as indeed they are. Nothing is "cast in concrete," everything is flexible. Everything, that is, except hard-core, up-to-the-minute DX information. We are committed to that!

Naturally, your subscription is needed. The publisher has obtained the best printing and mailing arrangements, and the resulting annual subscription rate affords typesetting, printing of photos in the DX Bulletin, costs of reply forms and envelopes, etc., and First Class weekly mailing. You will find a subscription information enclosed with this DX Bulletin, as well as report Forms.

The publisher, Don Busick, K5AAD, age 31, has been a licensed ham for 19 years. Don is a DXCC Honor Roll member, as his Dad (W5GJ) and his Mom (W5MBB)! His younger brother is N5JJ. Don is an active DXer and was formerly associated with the West Gulf DX Bulletin. K5AAD lives and works in Houston, Texas.

The editor, Jim Cain, K1TN, age 30, has been a ham for 18 years and has also operated as WA9AUM and WA1STN. He holds DXCC phone and cw from both Indiana and Connecticut, as well as 5-Band DXCC and WAZ. Presently employed as a professional technical writer, K1TN was formerly employed in the amateur radio publishing field.

Acting as advisor and consultant to The DX Bulletin is **Tom Taormina, K5RC/WA5LES**. Tom, an amateur for over two decades, edited the West Gulf DX Bulletin for many years, helped form the Texas DX Society, and has over 300 countries confirmed. Tom is widely-traveled, well known in DX circles and is a welcome member of The DX Bulletin "staff."

The DX Bulletin editor and publisher are at your service to make this the premier DX bulletin, and to continue the tradition of Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD, and his West Coast DX Bulletin. Your comments, criticism and suggestions are invited. And your hot DX news, too! We hope you enjoy this, Issue One of The DX Bulletin, as much as we enjoy bringing it to you.

Most of the information in this first issue came from phone calls to active DXers. Occasionally such telephone calls can be annoying or inconvenient, and we apologize to anyone who may have felt "put upon," even though everyone contacted was cooperative and helpful. Thanks, OM's!

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING DXERS WHO REALLY MADE THIS ISSUE WHAT IT IS:

W1BIH, W1DA, W1NG, K1RM, K1WJ, K1XA, K4BAI, WA4JTI, N4MM, K4NV, K4SMX, N4XX, K50VC, W7K9FN, K9KM, N9MM, W0BW.

RANDOM NOTES

CHINA operation appears remote, according to JA sources. 0800Z around 14150 was mentioned as a possible slot for "demonstrations," but a list-type operation with W7PHO helping has apparently been put aside. In a July 28 letter to a US amateur from a JA source, mention was made of pressure on both JARL and Chinese authorities concerning the possible havoc created by a station hitting the air from mainland China. Since a full-blown effort involving many stations and many competent operators would still require days or weeks to "clean up" the demand for BY, perhaps some would rather no one QSO BY than only a handful.

At any rate, Yugi Shimada, JA6H0Z, is scheduled to introduce amateur radio to the Chinese in Peking with an IC-701. There is talk of a beam, also, and perhaps a permanent club station will eventually result. For now a foot-in-the-door may be the extent of the visit, with whoever shows up in Peking having more important duties than sweating out the multitudes.

VE3HRS will be in the **Congo Republic (TN)** and the **Mali Republic (TZ)** working during October, with Yaesu gear and a beam. He reports having no licenses in hand but is hopeful. Satisfying the demand for reports will be attempted when business matters have been attended to (i.e., this is not a "dx-pedition").

VR3, Christmas Island will be available on 160 meters when the static dies down. VR3AR reports he has fixed up VR3AH's old sloper for use on Top Band. A new VR3 licensee is also expected to appear soon.

5R8AL is back on from the Malagasy Republic, according to FY7AN; the home call there is F6ACT and QSL to PO BOX 3833, Tananrive seems still OK.

Anquilla, VP2E, will be active Oct. 20 to Nov. 3, thanks to everybody's favorite QSL manager, W3HNN. Joe, whose callsign there is VP2EY, expects to use simply VP2E during the CQ WW contest the last weekend of Oct. A safe guess would be that Joe will handle his own QSLing!

VU7, Andaman Islands info. VU2CK, who works for a commercial airline, says regular flights to the Andamans should have him on board in Oct/Nov, and he's hoping to get in some radio time. Old timers will remember Sulu, VU7GV. He now signs A2CGV from Botswana but can fill requests for past Andaman contacts. Write to G.V. Sulu, PO BOX 10017, Gaborone, Botswana. Sulu's wife is A2CGW. Demographically, the Andaman group is about half-again the size of Delaware and has 50,000 souls to Delaware's half-million.

ZS2MI, Marion Island, has never been an easy one to round up. According to WA2IZN, he will be meeting the present operator, Johan, at 1130 around 14236 or so on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This will likely be a long path situation from stateside. If you crave a cw credit on this one the 25th day of each month is

allotted for Morse. W1DA reported a contact with Johan in which he related recent troubles with rig, tower and weather, but things seem to be perking again. ZS2MI also works Europe Tuesdays at 1700 with I8YRK assisting.

Bermuda activity by K1XX, Charlie Carroll, in last March's International DX Competition resulted in a second-place world-high all-band score. It might be well to note that this was accomplished running the legal limit in VP9land of 150 watts. 1980's two weekends for this activity have been moved slightly to accomodate low-banders with hoped-for reduced static levels.

A handful of **CHINA** confirmations may appear in an early issue of this bulletin, photographically. One local Honor Roller has that many BYQSLs gathering dust, since the late 40's, we presume. Reminds us of a story told by G. Zimmerman, W3ZZ . . . during a hot operating activity at W3MSK (now W3AU), an ashtray was inadvertently dumped on the floor, whereupon the chief operator Ed Bissel himself rushed to the rescue. The makeshift dustpan? An AC4/Tibet card! As Al Einstein would put it, it's all relative.

Dodecanese (Rhodes) is the next stop for SV1IW and W2TDQ, who have been passing out Crete contacts. **SV1JG/Mt. Athos** is on the air running W6S and 7S as this is typed.

Attention convention goers: word is the ARRL National in Seattle next July will be a DXer's paradise with, among other things, planeloads of Japanese DX aficionados landing for the event.

The government of **Equatorial Guineau (3C0 to us)**, has fallen, according to United Press International. The country, which obtained its independence from Spain in 1968, has seen its population drop from 300K to 100K in the eleven years hence, the report said.

The **1979 Spratly-Brunei-Hong Kong Expedition** cost its participants some \$20,000, of which only part has been recouped. It seems possible they might go elsewhere if they get out of the hole on this past trip. Send what you can to: "The 1979 Spratly Expedition," c/o SJDXA, Erich Schmidt, 33 Shore Dr., Manahawkin, NJ 08050.

The DX Bulletin is a weekly publication devoted to news of interest to DXers worldwide. **The DX Bulletin** is affiliated with no other publication or organization, and is independently published by DXers, for DXers. Commercial advertising is accepted as a service to readers. **The DX Bulletin** actively solicits input and DX reports from all DXers. First Class mailing to US and VE amateurs and Airmail to all others is used. Yearly subscription rates are \$22 US and VE, \$30 all others. **The DX Bulletin** is printed and mailed from Houston, TX. Address all correspondence to: **The DX Bulletin**, 306 Vernon Avenue, Vernon, CT 06066 USA.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

by John Thompson, W1BIH (formerly PJ9JT)

PJ8 and PJ9 calls, formerly available to US and other hams visiting the Dutch Islands in the Caribbean, will be extremely rare in the future since the Netherlands Antilles has adopted a new licensing policy that parallels that of our FCC. So instead of PJ9JT, PJ9MM, etc., it will be W1BIH/PJ2, K5CM/PJ7, etc. This will be a handicap and probably a deterrent to future contest operations by visiting hams. Alien residents will still qualify for PJ9 and PJ8 licenses. Hence, Chet, PJ9EE, retains that call.

Licensing for any of the Dutch Islands can take as much as four months. Anyone contemplating operating there this winter is advised to apply immediately, since Jose, PJ2MI, who is in charge of licensing at Landsradio there, will be departing shortly for Geneva, where he will participate in the WARC, which opens next month. In his absence, your application could be stalled. Be sure to send the \$8 US fee by "International Bank Money Order," also a copy of your US license, and mail to Landsradio, Postbox 103, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles.

The Coral Cliff Hotel station, PJ2CC, has been active the first two weeks in August with Jack, N4RV, as the operator. The Coral Cliff is at Santa Martha Bay on the southwest shore of Curacao, called by some the "World's Best DX Location," and long a mecca for contesters. Visiting hams, lacking their own PJ licenses, can operate PJ2CC by bringing along their own US license (original, not photocopy).

The only real active local ham is Fred, PJ2FR, who can be found daily on the DX bands, SSB only. He is also now set up for SSTV operation. Except for visitors, there has been very little CW operation from

PJ2 since Joeke, PJ2VD, returned to Holland last year.

A big multi-multi CW operation, quite possibly the last one for a long time, is being planned for Curacao in November by a US group with hopes for a special call sign. More on this at a later date.

Probably over 250,000 contacts have been made over the past ten years from Curacao alone by local hams and visiting DXpeditioners. So, who needs a PJ2 QSL? Plenty, apparently, because almost 10,000 contacts last March by W1BIH/PJ2 have resulted in over 1500 requests for confirmations to date, and cards keep coming in daily.

New DXers (and some old ones, too) are confused by the two DXCC countries comprising the six Dutch Islands. This may help to clarify the call sign situation:

PJ2 (Curacao), PJ3 (Aruba), PJ4 (Bonaire) and PJ9 (alien residents of Curacao, Aruba or Bonaire), are all counted as Netherlands Antilles and are in CQ Zone 9.

PJ5 (St. Eustatius), PJ6 (Saba), PJ7 (Sint Maarten) and PJ8 (alien residents of St. Eustatius, Saba or Sint Maarten), are all counted as "Sint Maarten" and are in CQ Zone 8.

There are no exceptions to the above and when you work a PJ2 or a PJ9 in contest, there is no need to ask what country he is in. No amount of wishful thinking can put him in Sint Maarten!

How about PJ1 and PJ00? These are special prefixes and are occasionally issued for special events, usually only when Verona, the Netherlands Antilles amateur radio club, is involved. Such a prefix could be used on any one of the islands. For example, PJ1A was used by Verona for a multi operator contest effort several years ago. PJ0CC, PJ0CW, PJ0DX and PJ0USA have all been issued and used in the past.

W1BIH prepared this information especially for the inaugural issue of The DX Bulletin. Thanks, John! — Ed.

FROM THE DESK OF DAN H. McCLEAN, WA4JTI

Looking backward, one finds that DX is a continuing and ongoing saga. That which was commonplace yesterday has become the "rarest of the rare" today. We long for those golden days of the early and mid-sixties. Gus and Don Miller were on the prowl, giving many of the thirsting Deserving such tidbits as Aldabra, Bouvet, Geyser Reef, Minerva, etc. We all thought those days would never end, but the sunspot doldrums had their way, as they are wont to do, and things slowed a bit. Many of the deserving became distressed, giving up DXing altogether, not heeding the bugle call of the sages. The ancient ones told us that better days would come, but, alas, their advice fell on many deaf ears. Little did we all know that Cycle 21 would become a reality, and that many of the rare would again rear their heads, allowing the Deserving much sport and merriment once more.

In the past two years, new adventurers have taken the flag, stirring the hearts of even the most doubting

among the ranks. Bouvet, Spratly, South Sandwich, and the like have found their way into countless logs in recent times. Now there is talk of even BY becoming a reality. DXing is at an all time high, and the patient and Deserving are now getting their just rewards.

So keep the faith, folks, as a 7-Land DXer has preached for many years. Keep your senses about you, for the best of times are upon us!!! Ready your equipment to join in the hunt for the elusive. Prune your aerial wires to a razor sharpness to penetrate the deafening pileups. Reschedule your time so that you may join the dawn patrol in search of the Exotic.

But, above all, one has to **BELIEVE**. Yes, friends, even like the Phoenix of yore, a DX bulletin can truly rise from its ashes and fly to towering heights once more, making hearts leap again. Keep the faith . . . WA4JTI.

BOOK REVIEW

Practical Antennas for the Radio Amateur, by Robert M. Myers, W1XT. At your favorite radio newsstand since early July. Published by Selbi Publications, PO BOX 3133, Milford, CT 06460. \$9.95 plus one dollar by mail.

Bob Myers' three-tower backyard is referred to by some of the local wags as "Myers' Circus." W1XT has drawn from his 25 years of experience, the past 10 or so on a Connecticut hilltop in the "ice belt," to put together this well organized and, as they say, profusely illustrated guide to antennas for the beginner. Since some of my radio store acquaintances say many of their customers can't even put a PL-259 on a hunk of coax, the need is there.

Big Guns, OTs, and other leaders of amateur radio will find they have already learned much, if not most, of what **Practical Antennas** points out. But for every one of them, five more hams don't know how long to make a quarter-wave vertical. This book is for them — all the charts are made so not even a calculator is necessary. Novices on your block should be steered to this work rather than the highly technical antenna books or the one-topic books (yagis, quads, wire antennas, etc.)

Included in addition to the strictly aerial info are some computerized beam heading lists and a bibliography of antenna articles from **73**, **Ham Radio**, and **QST**. Finally, the book is made to be used on the job — easy to read print, margins big enough for note making and a vinyl cover so your 807 won't leave a ring.

If ten bucks sounds steep, consider that amateurs' thinking has been skewed by decades of underpriced books, and that the beginner will probably save the cost of **Practical Antennas** in one visit to the parts outlet. This is a useful book and a good buy.

THIS SPACE
RESERVED FOR
YOUR PERSONAL
WORD AD
Write for Rates

SUNSPOTS! SUNSPOTS! SUNSPOTS!

Aug. 20 High/Low Normal
21 High Normal
22 Low Normal
23 Low/Below Normal
24 Below/Low Normal
25 Low/Below Normal
26 High Normal
27 High Normal
28 High/Low Normal
29 Low Normal
30 Low Normal
31 Low Normal

Sep. 1 Low Normal
2 High Normal
3 High Normal
4 High Normal

The first week in August was the first week of the SOLAR MAXIMUM YEAR. Interestingly, the Smoothed Sunspot Number for that week was **low**, 107. Monthly mean SSN for July, 1979 was 159.6, up slightly from June. The 12-month running smoothed SSN, centered on January, 1979, was 123. — Thanks to N4XX for this information.

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Readers out on a limb . . .

I was a subscriber to the WCDXB for over five years and am so glad you are bringing it back to life . . . WA6TLA

Best of luck in the new endeavor . . . K4BAI (and many others)

I've been getting the WCDXB for 9 years and hope the new edition will carry on Hugh Cassidy's high quality . . . N2IS.

Have been a WCDXB subscriber for many years and have always found it very helpful . . . WB8ZJY.

As a long time reader, I'm really pleased that someone has picked up the ball for Hugh. I started reading when I had 117 and with (its) help am now at 255. I know you and the others will keep up Hugh's high quality and I'm looking forward to sharing and helping to contribute to your success . . . WA4JJW.

I went from 80 countries to my present total of 240, mostly with info from Cass's Bulletin. Let me know if I can help . . . K0KES.

Here's a tidbit for the first issue: UK1PAA (see Bandpass-ed.) . . . K9MM.

Will you offer lifetime subs? . . . N4DX.

Best of luck with your efforts . . . Englewood (NJ) ARA.

BANDPASS: Formerly Red Eyed Louie

All reports for BANDPASS are invited, especially concerning QSOs with rare countries, rare CQ zones, unusual band openings, and contacts on 160, 80, 40 and 6 meters. In the listings below, an asterick (*)

following the frequency indicates Long Path. E, C, and W stand for Eastern, Central, and Western North America. Reports from amateurs outside North America are **welcome** and will be listed separately.

BANDPASS-80 "WE PRINT WHAT WE GET"

OJ0MA reported worked by numerous W/VE the last week of July.

BANDPASS-40

J7DAY	7cw	0200E	31 July
JY8BF	7cw	0200E	28 J
KL7AF	7cw	0800E	14 J
OJ0MA	7085ssb	23 J	
OX3RA	7cw	0200E	31 J
VP5AH	7cw	0400E	28 J

BANDPASS-20

A35EK	14cw	1100E	21 J
A4XIF	14034	0000E	29 J
C21IV	14204	1045E	4 J
C31NT	14204	0130E	23 J
W7LPF/DU	14044	1100E	3 Aug
DU1DBT	14ssb	1100E	25 J
D4CBS	14ssb	0815E	14 J
FB8WX	14cw	0100E	29 J
FK8DD	14004	1100E	3 A
FO8AB	14ssb	1115E	15 J
FO0KW	14255	1000E	12 J
FR7BU	14025*	1100E	5 J
GJ3YHU	14210	0100E	5 A
HM1JJ	14cw	1300C	15 J
HR1BL	14222	1000E	12 J
HS1ABD	14cw*	1100E	22 J
H44CF	14260	1000E	1 A
JY8BF	14024	0415E	28 A
KG6JAR	14213	1015E	1 A
KG6RT	14203	1045E	26 J
KX6BU	14009	1100E	22 J
KX6PP	14ssb	1030E	26 J
WA6DGU/KH8	14233	0130E	30 J
M1C	14021	0130E	30 J
OH2OT/OH0	14018	1820C	6 A
OY5CD	14cw	2100E	1 A
P29LA	14018	1100E	30 J
P29FW	14245	1000E	1 A
TF3LJ	14cw	0000E	21 J
TR8DG	14ssb	2330E	14 J
T2AAA	14224	1030E	28 J
UF6CR	14231	0130E	23 J
UI8ADQ	14020	0045E	16 J
UW0MF/U6J	14cw	0230E	23 J
UK1PAA	1400Z	0200C	3 A
VE4CF/VE1	14195	1300C	5 A
VP2KF	14ssb	1020E	26 J

VP2KJ	14038	1015E	6 A
VQ9MR	14037*	1100E	10 J
VR1AW	14239	1050E	29 J
VR3AR	14005	1100E	3 A
VS6DO	14203	1100E	1 A
VU2RQ	14020	0055E	16 J
VU2TS	14021*	1130E	8 J
YJ8PD	14214	1100E	24 J
ZK2DD	14cw	1115E	18 J
ZK2CQ	14210	0930E	19 J
ZS2MI	14244	0700E	1 A
5N0DOG	14ssb	0830E	14 J
4Z4UO	14015	0100E	7 J
5W1AU	14023	1100E	11 J
9J2BO	14ssb	1200E	15 J
9M2FK	14028	1100E	15 J
9V0RS	14cw*	1100E	21 J

BANDPASS-15

GW3AHN	21255	1203E	22 J
HB0BEI	21296	1100E	1 A
HS1ABD	21031	0300E	10 J
JA7RRU	21254*	1100E	12 J
JY9VK	21293	2200E	6 J
KL7HF	21003	2240E	7 A
OH0DX	21024	0115E	9 J
WA7JRL/SU	21036	1050E	31 J
SV1GH	21271	1030E	28 J
SV0AM	21270	1143E	28 J
SV1JG/A	21295	1700C	8 A
UA9OBG	21014	0051E	23 J
UH8HAI	21020	1700E	29 J
VO9TR	21029	2230C	5 A
VU2GO	21022	2000E	19 J
XF4EH	21022	2000E	19 J
ZD8TC	21cw	2245C	15 J
ZK1DR	21ssb	0515E	14 J
3B6CD	21275	1834C	2 A
7X4AN	21026	2300C	3 A
7X4AN	21007	0150E	9 J
9V0OK	21013	1700E	21 J
9V0RS	21021	1750E	22 J
9V0TL	21014	1800E	21 J

BANDPASS-10

OK3TAB/D2A	28ssb	1700E	14 J
HP1CY	28ssb	1945E	14 J
ZE3JV	28ssb	1345E	14 J
5N0SID	28ssb	1445E	14 J